DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 318 673 SO 020 792

TITLE Biography. Advisory List of Instructional Media. 1989 Edition.
INSTITUTION North Carolina State Dept. of Public Instruction, Raleigh.
PUB DATE Dec 89
NOTE 32p.; For a related document, see SO 020 795.
PUB TYPE Reference Materials - Bibliographies (131) -- Guides - Non-Classroom Use (055)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Annotated Bibliographies; *Biographies; Book Reviews; *Books; Curriculum Enrichment; Elementary Secondary Education; Leaders; *Reading Materials; Resource Materials

ABSTRACT

Qualitative reviews of 56 biographies appropriate for readers in grades two through twelve are provided. Full bibliographic data is given, including the price, as well as a grade level indication. Reviews are also offered for nine biography series. The list includes biographies of Blacks, women, political leaders, handicapped people, authors, sports figures, Native Americans, business leaders, and others. Twenty-eight books and three series that were favorably reviewed in other sources are listed in addition, and the review sources are given for each. A list of the names and addresses of the publishers concludes the document. (JB)

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Advisory List of Instructional Media

BIOGRAPHY

1989 Edition

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December 1989

Advisory List of Instructional Media

BIOGRAPHY

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BOOKS

Altman, Susan. EXTRAORDINARY BLACK AMERICANS: FROM COLONIAL TO CONTEMPORARY TIMES. 240 p. $22.95. Childrens, 1989. (ISBN 0-516-00581-2) Grades 5-9

Brief biographies (one to five pages) of eighty-five famous black Americans; entries are arranged chronologically and cover individuals from the sixteenth to the twentieth century who distinguished themselves in a variety of professions (e.g., as writers, musicians, explorers, athletes, politicians, scientists, and pilots); included among the subjects are Martin Luther King, Jr., Jesse Jackson, James Baldwin, Matthew Henson, Frederick Douglass, and George Washington Carver; interspersed among the biographical entries are several short essays on significant topics such as the 1963 march on Washington and the freedom riders; also includes the text of such documents as the Emancipation Proclamation, Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, and the reconstruction amendments; contains black-and-white photographs and some black-line drawings, notes, a list of readings, and an index; a good selection for beginning research and especially as an introduction to the irreplaceable contributions of American blacks to American life

Andronik, Catherine M. QUEST FOR A KING: SEARCHING FOR THE REAL KING ARTHUR. 120 p. $12.95. Atheneum, 1989. (ISBN 0-689-31411-6) Grades 6-12

An exploration of the Arthurian legends and the scant number of facts on which they are based; describes the evidence there is that a warrior named Arthur actually lived and speculates about how the story of his life was enhanced and embellished through time; also discusses other major figures in the legends such as Merlin, Guenevere, Mordred, and Lancelot and the possibilities of their actual existence; also considers the facts and fantasies surrounding the Round Table, Camelot, and Arthur's sword, Excalibur, as well as possible sites for battles led by Arthur; provides a history of sixth century Britain, the time in which Arthur would have lived; describes some modern archaeological and scholarly research that has revealed some facts as well as more questions; contains black-and-white photographs, illustrations, and reproductions; includes an extensive reading list of both fiction and nonfiction and a thorough index; of interest as general reading and a good resource for research

Anthony, Carolyn, ed. FAMILY PORTRAITS: REMEMBRANCES BY TWENTY DISTINGUISHED WRITERS. 328 p. $18.95. Doubleday, 1989. (ISBN 0-385-26415-1) Grades 9-12

A moving collection of memoirs by well-known writers, including Louis Auchincloss, Gail Godwin, Alfred Kazin, Joyce Carol Oates, Isaac Singer, Wallace Stegner, Gloria Steinem, Jonathan Yardley, and North Carolina's Clyde Edgerton; each provides a look into family influences that molded the writer's character as a human being and work as a writer; readers see, for instance, the influence of Edgerton's storytelling uncle on his own appreciation for human stories and the evolution of Gloria Steinem's deep understanding of the power of repression and frustration to destroy lives through her life with her mentally ill mother; provides insight into the ways families (not just parents but also uncles, aunts, husbands, and grandparents) not only affect our development but become part of the very fabric of our being; good explorations here of difficult situations some students will be familiar with, such as the death of a parent, divorce, and a parent who for one reason or another is more of a dependent than a caretaker; excellent reading for anyone interested in writers, in human nature, or in the tenacious ties of blood and commitment

Appleman-Jurman, Alicia. ALICIA: MY STORY. 356 p. $18.95. Bantam, 1988. (ISBN 0-553-05317-5) Grades 9-12

The gripping, horrifying, and impressive story of a young Jewish girl (thirteen when the worst of her experiences began) who lost every member of her family to the unspeakable atrocities committed by Hitler and the Nazis; describes her relatively happy life as a child in Poland before World War II, even considering the anti-Semitism of the Polish culture; briefly discusses the Russian occupation of Poland, then details the German occupation and the harrowing years that followed for Alicia and her family as one by one her father and brothers were murdered, leaving only Alicia and her mother to try to survive; before the ordeal was over, Alicia would also see her cherished mother shot to death right before her eyes; living on the run and surviving by her wits, Alicia overcame one threatening situation after another, enduring hunger and other physical deprivations as well as extreme emotional trauma and stress; after the war she ran an orphanage for children who were concentration camp survivors (children barely younger than she) and then helped smuggle Jews into Palestine; incredibly and ironically, her own journey to Eretz Israel ended with eight months spent in a British prison camp before she was finally sent to Tel Aviv; she fought in the

War of Independence, then moved to the United States with her American-born husband; that a teenager could have the resourcefulness, inner strength, and endurance to survive the many horrors faced by Alicia is remarkable; that her choosing to relive those horrors to give a voice to all children who suffered cruelly because they were Jewish is a gift that can only be appreciated by those who read this book; an illumination of human nature that shows both its terrible and its tender side; an excellent supplement for studies in world history and the Holocaust; an important book for everyone's understanding of the destructive powers of hatred and prejudice

Berke, Art. BABE RUTH. (Impact Biography Series) 112 p. $12.90. Watts, 1988. (ISBN 0-531-10472-9) Grades 7-10

A biography of the famed baseball player that begins with his rough early years, his time at the St. Mary's Industrial School for Boys, and the encouragement he received from the brothers at that school; the book focuses more on Ruth's baseball career than on his personal life although it does present the human side of the man that caused him so much trouble; frequent black-and-white photographs will interest young baseball fans; each chapter contains boxed highlights and key statistics for one or more years; also included are a statistical record of Ruth's baseball career, notes, suggestions for further reading, and an index; appropriate for baseball lovers or for those needing resource material on the subject

Bober, Natalie S. THOMAS JEFFERSON: MAN ON A MOUNTAIN. 274 p. $14.95. Atheneum, 1988. (ISBN 0-689-31154-0) Grades 8-12

Extremely thorough, interesting biography, which is well documented, well illustrated, and immediately engrossing--like its subject, the venerated Founder whose heart always belonged to his mountain; covers what Jefferson himself called his "public service and private misery," alluding to his historic contributions to the shaping of Virginia and the United States while personally suffering heartbreaking losses within his immediate family; informative in all respects on momentous actions taken by Jefferson and his compatriots but especially fascinating and detailed account of Declaration of Independence; a candid but thoroughly unsensationalized chapter on the origins and realities of the Sally Hemings rumors should put to rest charges against Jefferson's sexual conduct with his slaves; warmly written, sympathetic and intelligent study of a most gifted and complex genius whose personal side emerges vividly from the marble

Briggs, Carole S. WOMEN IN SPACE: REACHING THE LAST FRONTIER. 80 p. $12.95. Lerner Pubns., 1988. (ISBN 0-8225-1581-4) Grades 3-8

Profiles 10 women astronauts, eight Americans and two Russians, in a picture-full text summarizing the history of NASA and devoting one chapter to the CHALLENGER disaster; packs much information into each chapter, weaving biographical facts of each female astronaut in with the status, aims, and goals of NASA missions underway at the time; stresses rigorous educational background, degrees, and almost superhuman dedication of these women breaking into traditionally male preserve; also notes American women currently in training as astronauts, as well as women on Japanese and Canadian space teams; exciting field and dynamic achievers make this one fast reading; color and/or black-and-white photos on nearly every page; excellent addition to collections

on women in unconventional careers; motivational for all female students and educational for both sexes; a high-interest/low-vocabulary title for older readers who refuse to tackle a full-length biography

Brower, Pauline York. BADEN-POWELL: FOUNDER OF THE BOY SCOUTS. (Picture-Story Biographies) 32 p. $8.95. Childrens, 1989. (ISBN 0-516-04173-8) Grades 2-3

History of Englishman who founded Boy Scouts, written in simple vocabulary and short sentences with many large black-and-white photos; briefly surveys "B-P's" life as unconventional son in upper-middle class, bookish family who, when he failed his entrance exams to Oxford, was freed to pursue his artistic and social propensities, leading soon to his organizing the Boy Scout movement; chronology and index; strictly the facts with little inducement for very young readers beyond the photos themselves and the actual subject for those researching Boy Scout history; for well-stocked primary libraries with strong Scout programs

Collins, David R. THE COUNTRY ARTIST: A STORY ABOUT BEATRIX POTTER. 56 p. $9.95. Carolrhoda Bks., 1989. (ISBN 0-87614-344-3) Grades 4-6

Life of the beloved animal artist and storyteller whose lonely childhood, a virtual imprisonment, produced an intimate acquaintance with substitute friends--mice, hedgehogs, rabbits, snails, even bats--smuggled into the little girl's proper Victorian bedroom by the family butler; conveys the stultifying effects of Beatrix's tyrannical, possessive parents on her life and art, emphasizing her quiet, gathering courage which culminated in her successful publication of The Tale Of Peter Rabbit, launching her career; a charming rendition of the "poor little rich girl" whose true grit and vicarious identification with the English animal kingdom and countryside inspired classic children's literature; soft charcoal-like drawings especially enhance text; a lovely, whimsical tone captures Beatrix's own loving, creative solution to her parentally imposed isolation; well documented with almost no fictionalizing

Crouch, D. Tom. THE BISHOP'S BOYS: A LIFE OF WILBUR AND ORVILLE WRIGHT. 606 p. $22.50. Norton, 1989. (ISBN 0-393-02660-4) Grades 9-12

A minutely detailed, well-documented biography of the Wright Brothers that also provides an excellent history of aviation; gives a good bit of family history and describes the growing-up years of the Wright children; covers others' research into aviation and all the experiments of the Wright brothers as they moved from building bicycles to building airplanes; conveys substantial information about the scientific principles and mechanical details involved in powered flight; details the legal fights regarding patents and other controversies about the brothers' accomplishments; chronicles the years after Wilbur's death when Orville endured--and sometimes enjoyed--the fame attending their invention; also provides insight into the psychological forces that molded Wilbur's and Orville's characters and the tremendous commitment to and dependence on family that characterized their lives and work; a truly fascinating exploration of the way the Wrights approached their work that subtly reveals why (in addition to their genius) they succeeded where others failed; includes extensive notes, a lengthy bibliography, and a thorough index; an excellent choice for library collections--irresistible to aviation lovers, intriguing to those interested in the psychology of genius, and invaluable to researchers

Cunningham, Laura. SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS. 195 p. $18.95. Knopf, 1989. (ISBN 0-394-56112-0) Grades 8-12

Tender memoir of an unusual and loving family; Lily never knows her father, but her mother does a remarkable job of making Lily feel especially wanted and loved; for several years they stay with one relative and then another but finally settle into their own efficiency apartment; Cunningham relates the adventures she had in the afternoon hours between three and six while waiting for her mother to come home from work; an unusual amount of freedom to roam and the relative sophistication of her young friends combined with her sensitive nature teach Lily about life in other families and in the Bronx; when Lily is eight, her mother dies, and her two uncles give up their separate lives and move in to take care of her; some might consider these two men eccentric, but they are extraordinarily loving and respectful of Lily; their approach to domestic duties is unorthodox (popcorn and tuna croquettes for breakfast, for instance), but their commitment to Lily is total and unwavering; when Lily's somewhat senile grandmother moves in, the family is complete, and the brothers continue to show their special sensitivity and protectiveness to their mother as well as to their niece; describes the move to a better neighborhood (although not a larger apartment) and briefly takes us through Lily's adolescence (including sex education and a growing interest in boys) to her going away to college; beautifully written, this moving memoir not only illuminates the life of one special family, thereby defining what a family is, but also speaks the wonder of human uniqueness, the miraculous gifts of sensitivity and compassion, and the healing power of unlimited, unquestioning love; contains realistic descriptions of children's sexual fantasies and exploration; good leisure reading, perhaps especially for those young people in unusual family situations

Darby, Jean. DOUGLAS MacARTHUR. (Lerner Biography Series) 112 p. $14.95. Lerner Pubns., 1989. (ISBN 0-8225-4901-8) Grades 6-10

Informative history of the life of General MacArthur which examines with equal candor both his peculiarly ego-ridden behavior and his impressive soldierly courage; MacArthur's unusual brilliance and his unerring flair for drama mingled often to his detriment, most notably in his being fired by President Truman for insubordination, an event entirely oversimplified in this otherwise worthy portrait; MacArthur's patient suffering of his domineering mother's interference and his geniune compassion for the underdog, witnessed in his wise and humane stewardship of the rebuilding of postwar Japan, contrast with his eccentric self-enthrallment in many vivid examples (e.g., a brief habit of referring to himself in third person---"MacArthur will now leave"); well documented and illustrated; glossary; index; maps; bibliography

Darby, Jean. DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER: A MAN CALLED IKE. (Lerner Biography Series) 112 p. $14.95. Lerner Pubns., 1989. (ISBN 0-8225-4900-X) Grades 6-10

Nicely flowing biography of Ike written in short sentences but with interesting, un-"formulaic" vocabulary; follows the WW II Supreme Allied Commander's career from its auspicious beginnings in Abilene, Kansas, where he was the school hero, through West Point, marriage to Mamie, death of Icky ("the greatest disaster of my life"), his steady rise in the military echelon, to his crowning achievement as a superbly able leader of soldierly egos in the Allied command; Ike's less comfortable role as President makes for anticlimactic reading; his much rumored

affair with Kay Summersby, though she is frequently mentioned, is ignored, as are the troubles which shadowed his union with Mamie after their son's death and during his overseas duty; a noncritical account which leans toward the iconographic interpretation; black-and-white photos; maps; glossary; index; a better than average account, given its bias

Drimmer, Fred. BORN DIFFERENT: THE AMAZING STORIES OF SOME VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE. 182 p. $13.95. Atheneum, 1988. (ISBN 0-689-31360-8) Grades 6-10

Biographies of seven people born with severe physical handicaps: Charles Stratton ("Tom Thumb"), the giant Robert Wadlow, Julia Pastrana ("the Apewoman"), the Siamese twins Chang and Eng, Joseph Merrick ("the Elephant Man"), and Hermann Unthan ("the Armless Wonder"); their stories are presented in an unsensational, empathetic, and respectful manner that shows both the extreme difficulties of their situations and the innate strengths that helped them survive; covers the ways in which these people were forced to use their deformities as a means of earning a living; explains their deformities in terms of modern day medical knowledge; black-and-white photographs and illustrations accompany the text; some will find them painful to look at, and others will be fascinated; appropriate for leisure reading or research

Ferris, Jeri. ARCTIC EXPLORER: THE STORY OF MATTHEW HENSON. 80 p. $9.95. Carolrhoda Bks., 1989. (ISBN 0-87614-370-2) Grades 4-6

High drama in true story of Admiral Peary's heroic assistant Matthew Henson, a black American who helped Peary plant the American flag on the North Pole in 1909 but was ignored and unacknowledged by both Peary and historians throughout most of Henson's life; the many failed attempts to reach the Pole make splendid adventure reading full of details about Arctic survival skills, Eskimo customs, and interpersonal rivalry and comradeship; vivid, even poetic descriptions of the frozen North's eerie beauty; sympathetic depiction of both the men and the region; Henson's magnanimous spirit and personal courage are inspirations for black youth and for all readers; large print, many black-and-white photos, bibliography, and index; excellent high-interest/low-vocabulary title for older but weaker readers

Ferris, Jeri. WHAT DO YOU MEAN? A STORY ABOUT NOAH WEBSTER. 63 p. $9.95. Carolrhoda Bks., 1988. (ISBN 0-87614-330-3) Grades 3-6

A simple yet informative biography written in an engaging manner; relates young Noah's dislike of the farm life he was born into, his studies at Yale, and his limited experience with the Revolutionary War; describes his off-and-on career as a teacher, his constant financial difficulties, and his work as a writer of American textbooks, especially his popular speller; also traces the long and arduous task of writing his famous dictionary (work that required him to study many languages); black-and-white illustrations by Steve Michaels add visual appeal; the book contains some fictionalized dialogue and lacks an index but is a readable study of an important American and his contributions to our culture

Ford, Barbara. WALT DISNEY. 160 p. $16.85. Walker & Co., 1989. (ISBN 0-8027-6865-2) Grades 6-12

Impartial, candid assessment of Mickey Mouse's alter ego, the mercurial and endlessly creative Walt Disney; engrossing anecdotal style portrays a man who overcame family difficulties, financial straits, business flops, and the

betrayal of associates to rise to the top of the industry; also the story of the loyal brother in the person of Roy Disney, co-entrepreneur and chief defender and supporter; Walt's volatile temper, charm, and brass make for absorbing reading as his drawing talents move him from ad agency back to small-time cartoon hustler to international recreation magnate; Mickey, Donald, and other Disney creations contribute winsomely to the drama of Walt's vicissitudes; includes a generous number of black-and-white photographs and an index

Fraser, Rebecca. THE BRONTES: CHARLOTTE BRONTE AND HER FAMILY. 543 p. $25. Crown, 1988. (ISBN 0-517-56438-6) Grades 10-12

A well-researched and thoroughly documented study of the Bronte family with its major focus on Charlotte; begins with a history of Patrick Bronte's Irish family and his rather remarkable rise in station to an English clergyman; also discusses the family of Maria Branwell, Charlotte's mother, and the courtship of Patrick and Maria; describes in detail the Haworth parsonage and its surroundings, family life there, and the influence of both on all of the Bronte children; describes the death of Mrs. Bronte, the arrival of her unmarried sister to help care for the family, and the effects of Maria Branwell Bronte's death on all members of the family; relates the hard experiences of the Bronte sisters at Cowan Bridge school and the deaths of Maria and Elizabeth; describes the writing and the imaginary worlds created by Charlotte, Branwell, Emily, and Anne in their loneliness and isolation; devotes quite a bit of attention throughout to Charlotte's best friends, Mary Taylor and Ellen Nussey, and much consideration is given to the plight of single women in the nineteenth century and the many constraints put on them; covers the education of Charlotte and Emily in Brussels and Charlotte's deep and lingering feelings for M. Heger; discusses Branwell's dissolution and the continuing hardships imposed on his family because of his behavior; describes the writing and publishing of the Bronte sisters' novels and contemporary reaction to the work of Acton, Ellis, and Currer Bell; follows Charlotte's brief but apparently contented marriage, her illness and death, and the last years of her father's life; provides analysis of the ways in which life influenced art and the often direct connections between the Brontes' reality and their fiction; contains a center insert of black-and-white photographs and reproductions and includes extensive documentation and notes and a comprehensive index; although Fraser's writing style is at times dense and the text is occasionally marred by poor editing of spelling, punctuation, and grammar, this is a fascinating, information-packed book eminently suitable for research; also of much interest to those intrigued by the relationship between life and art and the many factors influencing a writer's work; a good psychological portrait of the struggles between convention and individual nature, duty and passion, and expectation and desire

Fritz, Jean. THE GREAT LITTLE MADISON. 160 p. $15.95. Putnam, 1989. (ISBN 0-399-21768-1) Grades 5-9

Well-written account of the life of James Madison and his crucial roles in founding and ensuring the unity of this country; briefly describes his early life but gives fullest attention to his adult years, beginning with his career at Princeton; the most riveting feature of this excellent book is that while it explores the character and actions of this exceptional man, it also provides a detailed history of the United States during Madison's lifetime; readers also learn a great deal about other important Americans, including George Washington and Thomas Jefferson; although the book delves more into Madison's public rather than personal life, readers are treated to some good description of the

irrepressible Dolley Madison and the strength of that marriage; frequent black-and-white illustrations and photographs illustrate the text; also includes informative notes, an extensive bibliography, and an index; a prime choice for media collections, one that will give readers the feeling of knowing the man who was James Madison and a better understanding of the first fifty to sixty years of our country's history; appropriate as a supplemental text, individual reading, or research

Greene, Carol. SIMON BOLIVAR: SOUTH AMERICAN LIBERATOR. (People of Distinction Series) 115 p. $11.95. Childrens, 1989. (ISBN 0-516-03267-4) Grades 4-6

Action-packed biography of dashing South American hero, Simon Bolivar, labeled "the George Washington of South America"; details Bolivar's emergence as liberator of Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, Colombia, and Venezuela and the most feared Creole in America from Spanish viewpoint; examines profound effects on Bolivar of his unconventional education under tutelage of iconoclastic scholar Rodriguez who bred both practical and idealistic values in his aristocratic pupil; follows in close detail the many, many bloody battles, intrigues, and general mayhem that Bolivar's armies encountered or promoted as the general led them in sweeps and retreats over many countries; paints vivid picture of Spanish atrocities in cruel conduct of Monteverde and of native brutality in sadistic destructions of Boves; much information on Bolivar's wild personal side (women, parties); thorough and uncompromising account with many difficult names, terms, and concepts; for highly motivated readers with some background in the region; excellent addition to Spanish culture/South American collections; photos, index, chronology

Hamilton, Virginia. ANTHONY BURNS: THE DEFEAT AND TRIUMPH OF A FUGITIVE SLAVE. 193 p. $12.99. Knopf, 1988. (ISBN 0-394-98185-5) Grades 7-12

Heavily fictionalized history of last slave ever seized on Massachusetts soil, the Virginia fugitive, Anthony Burns, whose 1854 trial in Boston divided the city over the Fugitive Slave Act and mobilized moralists to action; Newbery Award winner Hamilton, relying on all available, though scanty, documentation of Burns's life aside from the trial, creates heartrending "docudrama" of indignities and humiliations suffered by Everyman--if his skin happened to be black--in pre-Civil War America; day-by-day account of famous trial and Burns's own integrity and innocent dignity before both his accusers and defenders are impressive; a fine tribute to the brutalized, courageous ancestry of many of today's American citizens; Afterword clarifies text sources and content; selections from Fugitive Slave Act; index; a necessary title for providing the personal and human side of this inhuman institution

Hargrove, Jim. NELSON MANDELA: SOUTH AFRICA'S SILENT VOICE OF PROTEST. (People of Distinction Series) 135 p. $11.95. Childrens, 1989. (ISBN 0-516-03266-6) Grades 6-9

Life of one of the world's most prominent prisoners and civil rights activists in interesting, well-documented history which is also an account of South Africa's repressive apartheid policy and brutalization of native Africans; summarizes available facts of Mandela's youth as a royal heir raised tribally in the Transkei, his Western-style education and subsequent career as a lawyer, his role in ANC (African National Congress) and in the leadership of the black protest movement against increasingly racist, restrictive laws (e.g., the

infamous "pass" laws requiring all blacks to carry identification passes), and his marriage to Winnie, who soon learned that "life with him was always life without him"; reveals a strong, unyielding, eloquent adversary of white South Africa's archaic legalized bigotry; up-to-date, including Winnie's disturbing involvement in the "United Mandela Football Club" scandal; contains black-and-white photographs, a time line and an index; excellent addition to black history titles

Haskins, James. SPORTS GREAT MAGIC JOHNSON. (Sports Great Series) 64 p. $13.95. Enslow Pubs., 1989. (ISBN 0-89490-160-5) Grades 4-7

Story of Los Angeles Lakers star guard Earvin "Magic" Johnson, which focuses on his development as an athlete of the first magnitude; also traces his rivalry with Larry Bird, his off-and-on struggles with jealous teammates, and the steady, sunny disposition which sees him through good and bad times alike; many black-and-white photos; index; easy reading and large print; good high-interest/low-vocabulary title

Haskins, Jim. WINNIE MANDELA: LIFE OF STRUGGLE. 179 p. $14.95. Putnam, 1988. (ISBN 0-399-21515-8) Grades 7-12

Combines the story of Winnie Mandela's life with the history of black South Africans' struggles against apartheid; provides background information about the colonization of South Africa and the beginnings of the African National Congress; discusses Mandela's early education (her father was a teacher) and her becoming the first black medical social worker in South Africa; describes her unusual courtship with Nelson Mandela and the difficult and lonely early years of their marriage, even before he was sentenced to life in prison; chronicles Winnie's many hardships and the harassment and torment she has suffered at the hands of the South African government; relates Nelson Mandela's refusal to submit to the government's restrictions on him in order to be set free and touches on the activitism of Nelson and Winnie's now grown daughters; includes a map of South Africa, twelve black-and-white photographs, a bibliography, and an index; good reading for those interested in people who have committed their lives to a cause or specifically in the topics of racism and apartheid; appropriate for research

Hilton, Suzanne. THE WORLD OF YOUNG ANDREW JACKSON. 118 p. $13.85. Walker & Co., 1988. (ISBN 0-8027-6815-6) Grades 4-8

Lusty tale of young Andy Jackson growing up in Colonial North Carolina and gaining the tough, honest reputation which still defines Old Hickory both in legend and in fact; a heavily fictionalized account (imagined dialogue, thoughts) but redeemed by many wonderful and essentially true anecdotes and a multitude of fascinating details on life in Colonial Carolina; graphic description of customs, pastimes, superstitions, Catawba-Cherokee rivalry, diseases, pioneer education, and more; follows Andy from his birth two weeks after his father's death until age 21 and the beginning of his law practice; a true adventure story and remarkably well balanced, neither deifying nor denigrating the rough-and-tumble beginnings of the nation's first "people's President"; drawings, chronology, bibliography, index; excellent North Carolina content is a real bonus

Hovde, Jane. JANE ADDAMS. (Makers of America Series) 131 p. $16.95. Facts on File, 1989. (ISBN 0-8160-1547-3) (Available from Bemar) Grades 10-12

Serious, in-depth survey of life of reformer, feminist, and Nobel Peace Prize winner Jane Addams of the famous Hull House experiment in turn-of-the-century Chicago; a solemn, almost grim childhood and a depressed young womanhood resulted in Addams' turning to altruistic service for the poor and oppressed almost as a means of preserving her own sanity; thoughtful coverage of Addams' battles against City Hall and against national aversion to women pacifists in the twenties and thirties; strangely silent on her mature personal life and associations; an excellent resource for feminist studies; extremely poor photos and dense, long paragraphs will put off many, but valuable content balances defects; bibliography; index

Hyman, Trina Schart. SELF-PORTRAIT: TRINA SCHART HYMAN. unp. $13.89. Har-Row, 1989. (ISBN 0-06-022766-4) Grades 4-12

Evocative self-portrait in colored drawings and slight, whimsical text by the acclaimed children's illustrator/storyteller; subjective and selective autobiographical account which seeks to suggest the early childhood influences on the creative spirit, such as little Trina's fascination with fairy tales, farm animals, landscape, night sky, make-believe worlds, and her unique identification with all things beautiful or mysterious; mixes the factual and the imaginative in an interesting blend capturing the spirit if not always the exact letter of the author's unconventional life; illustrations are essential to the narrative, adding an unusual dimension to this genre; sophisticated and childlike harmony of this one makes it acceptable for all grade levels

Kellogg, Steven, retel. JOHNNY APPLESEED. unp. $12.88. Morrow, 1988. (ISBN 0-688-06418-3) Grades 1-4

Colorful, captivating illustrations and clearly written, informative text make this book about the life of John Chapman, otherwise known as Johnny Appleseed, a first choice for library collections; the frontispiece and title page invite readers into Appleseed's forest world, and the end papers map the events of his life while showing the progression of his travels west from his birthplace in Massachusetts; describes Johnny's young life, his love of nature, his travels westward clearing land for apple orchards, his generosity to friends and neighbors, and his love of children; explains how the tales surrounding Johnny Appleseed evolved; an author's note addressed to adults describes some of the sources of factual information about John Chapman; best used by individuals or small groups to fully appreciate the detail and informative nature of the illustrations; a welcome addition to any collection

Kort, Michael. NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV. (Impact Biographies) 160 p. $12.90. Watts, 1989. (ISBN 0-531-10776-0) Grades 7-12

A solid biography that also provides a great deal of history; describes the Russian Empire and the condition of the peasantry, the class into which Khrushchev was born; covers, among other things, Khrushchev's childhood, the 1917 revolution, Khrushchev's political activities during Stalin's regime, and Russian life under Stalin; also discusses Khrushchev's rise to power as the head of the Soviet government, his activities and experiences in that role, his

removal from office, and his general accomplishments as Soviet leader; black-and-white photographs are interspersed throughout; includes source notes and an index; interesting and informative book that is appropriate for research or supplemental reading

Kresh, Paul. AN AMERICAN RHAPSODY: THE STORY OF GEORGE GERSHWIN. (Jewish Biography Series) 166 p. $14.51. Lodestar Bks., 1988. (ISBN 0-525-67233-8) Grades 7-12

This fast-paced, once-over-lightly, anecdotal biography of the American composer covers the life of George Gershwin and his family, friends, associates, and music; the biographer, a lifelong admirer of Gershwin and, among other things, a noted critic and writer about music, sketches a vivid portrait of the composer, his times, and his music; a sketch, of course, lacks detail and coloration, and there is no real attempt to definitively analyze or explain either Gershwin or his music; various conclusions of the author must therefore be accepted at face value; the book is an excellent introduction, however, and should stimulate further reading on the part of those interested in the popular culture of the teens, twenties, and thirties as expressed in the lives and music of Gershwin and his associates; the several black-and-white photographs illustrating the book are neither very clear nor particularly informative; includes a good bibliography and an index

Lampton, Christopher. WERNHER VON BRAUN. (Impact Biographies) 160 p. $12.90. Watts, 1988. (ISBN 0-531-10606-3) Grades 7-12

A history of the German rocket genius who gladly volunteered his services to the victorious Americans as Hitler's Reich fell in spring of 1945; follows career of well-born son of a minister in the Weimar Republic's cabinet through his rise to the first ranks of German scientists trusted to develop weapons for the Nazi conquest; eventually incurring suspicion by Himmler ("as mild-mannered a villain as ever cut a throat," said Von Braun), Wernher often expressed profound regret over actions of Hitler's government, a fact that did not exonerate his participation in the German war effort enough to clinch his candidacy for director of NASA, although his contributions, especially to Saturn 5, qualified him professionally if not morally; black-and-white photos; notes, sources, list of recommended reading, index; a balanced biography that, nevertheless, may not sit well with those who pardon no Nazis

Larsen, Rebecca. OPPENHEIMER AND THE ATOMIC BOMB. 192 p. $13.90. Watts, 1988. (ISBN 0-531-10607-1) Grades 9-12

Life and career of J. Robert Oppenheimer covers his awkward youth, his interest in the humanities as well as science, his teaching career at Berkeley, and his involvement with left-wing groups (an involvement that eventually ended, unfairly, his career); while keeping scientific explanations clear and relatively simple, describes the years of work that went into developing the atomic bomb, especially the huge project at Los Alamos that Oppenheimer headed during the years of World War II; discusses the problems Oppenheimer had obtaining security clearance and the constant surveillance he was under even as he did an outstanding job of bringing together the work of many brilliant scientists; explains his opposition to development of the hydrogen bomb and details the hearing that cost Oppenheimer his security clearance and therefore his position with the Atomic Energy Commission; includes notes, a bibliography,

and an index; contains a few black-and-white photographs; clearly written in an appealing style, this book provides an interesting look at the psychology of a brilliant man, the history of the atomic bomb, and the concern felt almost immediately by scientists (most especially among the ones who helped create it) about its future use--or more accurately, its misuse; appropriate for general interest and supplementary reading as well as research

Larsen, Rebecca. PAUL ROBESON: HERO BEFORE HIS TIME. 158 p. $13.90. Watts, 1989. (ISBN 0-531-10779-5) Grades 7-12

A well-researched, informative biography of an intelligent and gifted man who was also the center of much controversy; begins with a brief description of his childhood and the values instilled in him by his beloved father; discusses his years at Rutgers--and the prejudice he encountered there--where he was class valedictorian, a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and an outstanding member of the football team; details his very brief law career (again, he was victimized by his race) and his career as an actor and singer (he is especially remembered for his performances in Show Boat and Othello and his concerts); explores his views about racial equality, his sympathy towards Russia (mainly because it was there that he first felt he was treated as a human being and not mistreated because he was black), and the many years of suffering and stress he endured for being accused of being a Communist; contains a few pages of black-and-white photographs, a list of notes, an extensive bibliography, and a thorough index; an interesting, readable portrait of a man who stood strong for what he believed; a useful resource for research (there is some material here, for instance, about Senator Joe McCarthy's doings) and good leisure reading for those interested in Robeson, the history of black Americans, and the human side of those out of whom we make heroes

Lauber, Patricia. LOST STAR: THE STORY OF AMELIA EARHART. 106 p. $10.95. Scholastic Inc., 1989. (ISBN 0-590-41615-4) Grades 5-9

Enjoyable account of Amelia Earhart, covering her early life and last flight with thoroughness; interestingly examines the effects of her father's alcoholism on her life and the drinking problems of her male flight colleagues on her career; emphasizes "AE," as she preferred to be called, as an early feminist who broke sexist taboos from childhood on, with the sympathetic support of both parents; sketchy on AE's aviatrix career except for her tantalizing 1937 disappearance with Fred Noonan; speculates on technical reasons for the Electra's failure to reach Howland Island and on the various rumors spawned to explain her fate; her ambitious, controlling husband "GP" (George Putnam) is only vaguely included, although his driving zeal to commercialize AE is a subject of compelling interest; good black-and-white photos; index; bibliography; a consciously encouraging "female role model biography"

Lyttle, Richard B. PABLO PICASSO: THE MAN AND THE IMAGE. 246 p. $15.95. Atheneum, 1989. (ISBN 0-689-31393-4) Grades 8-12

A biography of Picasso's life and work; describes his early life and the encouragement he received as well as the conflicts he experienced with his family, particularly his father; covers the various periods in Picasso's art and its changing nature; explains the connection between his relationships with women and his work and explores each one of his more important relationships;

relates the influence of Gertrude Stein and other writers on Picasso, who preferred their company to that of other artists (and competitors); considers the effects of historical events such as the two world wars on Picasso's work; looks at his later life and the unfortunate conflicts with and disavowal of his illegitimate children as well as the turmoil concerning his estate after his death; black-and-white photographs and reproductions are interspersed throughout the text; includes a bibliography and an index; this clearly written account of Picasso's life neither idolizes nor vilifies but presents an objective view of a man whose personal life and passion were inextricably mixed with his art; appropriate leisure reading, especially for those interested in art, and also useful for research

Marrin, Albert. STALIN: RUSSIA'S MAN OF STEEL. 244 p. $13.95. Viking, 1988. (ISBN 0-670-82102-0) Grades 7-12

A riveting biography of the man, a stunning chronicle of the country he created in his own image; describes his impoverished childhood and his abusive father; discusses the hardness of life in tsarist Russia, which paved the way for the Bolshevik Revolution and Lenin's regime; details Stalin's path to becoming the head of a totalitarian government and his awful ability to eliminate anyone who stood in his way (or even seemed to); discusses the many horrors of life in Stalin's Russia, including hunger, starvation, the gulags, and death; provides a thorough look at Russia's (i.e., Stalin's) role in World War II and Stalin's relationship with Hitler; talks about the Cold War, the Korean War, and Stalin's death; includes black-and-white photographs, a list of suggested books (all written at the adult level), and an index; contains a few grammatical errors; a truly fine biography that helps readers understand how Russia came to be what it is today; the generosity of historical detail makes this a good source for research material as well as just plain fascinating reading

Meltzer, Milton. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN: THE NEW AMERICAN. 287 p. $14.90. Watts, 1988. (ISBN 0-531-10582-2) Grades 7-12

Superior biography of fascinating Founder and master-of-all-trades which succeeds in showing the strengths and weaknesses of his remarkable character in a thoroughly human, engaging portrait; especially successful in evoking the paternal and familial restraints on Franklin's headstrong youth that led to his famous flight from Boston to Philadelphia; captures the spirit and wisdom of a multi-talented, hugely productive citizen of the world through many quotations from Ben himself; covers his role in Revolution, in Constitution, and in endless contributions to improvement and comfort of daily life; Franklin's thoroughly social nature and his masterful skills as a compromiser cum ideals shine through numerous anecdotes about his coups in France, among the touchy patriots, even among the angry and embittered British; highly readable text with style and panache to match its subject's; reproduced drawings, portraits, maps, other, extend the text; annotated Note on Sources; index; a first-priority purchase

Meltzer, Milton. STARTING FROM HOME: A WRITER'S BEGINNINGS. 145 p. $13.95. Viking, 1988. (ISBN 0-670-81604-3) Grades 7-12

A memoir of Meltzer's life up to the age of seventeen when he entered Columbia University; begins with his grandparents' and parents' emigration from Austria and the history of their lives' there; describes his growing up and school days in Worcester, Massachusetts, and his love of words and books; relates the

struggles of his working class family during the Depression, including his mother's attempts to sell stockings door to door; the beginning of each chapter features black-and-white photographs (many of family members) and drawings relevant to the time period being discussed; an excellent choice for many reasons: fine writing, fascinating narrative, the depth of the historical and social perspectives into which Meltzer places the narrative of his life, and the sensitivity to both people and events that brings the reader empathy, compassion, and understanding for other times and places; highly recommended

Mills, Judie. JOHN F. KENNEDY. 370 p. $14.90. Watts, 1988. (ISBN 0-531-10520-2) Grades 10-12

Chronicles the life and times of John Fitzgerald Kennedy and provides insight into circumstances that shaped his life; traces his Irish ancestry, emphasizing the influence of his competitive, close-knit family on his development; follows Kennedy through his illnesses, his travels and studies, his fierce competition with his older brother, his congressional political career, his married life with Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy, and finally his unfinished term as President of the United States; depicts Kennedy as a highly intelligent, witty individual whose personal charm and warmth endeared him to friends, supporters, and aides but also reveals his human frailties; examines Americans' fascination with President and Mrs. Kennedy and their "Camelot" years in the White House; reviews major events of Kennedy's presidency and explores his role in each (e.g., the Bay of Pigs fiasco, the building of the Berlin Wall, the Cuban missile crisis, and desegregation); cites Kennedy's accomplishments as an author, an effective negotiator, and a leader concerned about the nation's image and its citizens' welfare; the tedious details about Kennedy's early political career may lack appeal for young readers, but most Kennedy buffs will enjoy the book even though it contains little new information; useful as a reference in U.S. history and related studies

Moates, Marianne M. A BRIDGE OF CHILDHOOD: TRUMAN CAPOTE'S SOUTHERN YEARS. 240 p. $19.95. H. Holt & Co., 1989. (ISBN 0-8050-0971-X) Grades 9-12

A look at Truman Capote's young years based on stories remembered and told by his cousin and childhood companion Jennings Faulk Carter; begins with a prologue explaining how Moates became friends with Carter, how she met Capote, and Capote's relationship with his family as an adult; describes Monroeville, Alabama, as it was when four-year-old Truman was left there by his mother, Lillie Mae Faulk Persons, to be cared for by older Faulk relatives (Sook, Jenny, Callie, and Bud); traces the Faulk family history with its unusual legacy of orphans being cared for by other family members; profiles these people with whom Truman grew up as well as his close childhood friend Harper Lee (known to Monroeville families as Nelle); the next sixteen chapters (narrated by Jennings Faulk Carter) relate various experiences that Carter (known as Big Boy), Truman, and Nelle had as children and teenagers, experiences that reveal the evolution of Capote's character and his relationships; one especially interesting chapter discusses a Halloween party given by Jenny which heavily influenced some of the important scenes of Harper Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird; an epilogue from Carter explains the many ways in which Capote's family failed him, largely because of the family's inability to show or give love and frequently because Capote was simply too different for them to understand; a telling look at the early life of a man whose desire for parental love was never filled and whose desperate sense of aloneness was never healed; includes a family tree and an index

Neimark, Anne E. CHE! LATIN AMERICA'S LEGENDARY GUERILLA LEADER. 113 p. $13.89. Lippincott, 1989. (ISBN 0-397-32309-3) Grades 7-12

Moving, perceptive biography of the troubled, asthmatic boy who grew up to become legendary leader of Latin America and strong right arm of Fidel Castro; riveting opening chapter of this fictionalized account provides context for Che's relentless spirit of revolution, showing him tormented at school by bullies who ridiculed his struggle to breathe and urged on at home to fight for the oppressed by his fiery mother, a former Spanish Loyalist and freedom fighter; Che's abandonment of medical school just short of degree freed him to join forces with Castro against the rich and powerful, a union threatened eventually by Castro's less violent philosophy; dramatic and powerful interpretation that stops short of endorsing Che's ruthlessness and clearly assigns his avenging spirit's stamina to childhood sources and traumas; bibliography; scattered photos; sensitive treatment of a driven, enigmatic man which relies heavily on Che's diaries for its sympathetic portrayal

Oleksy, Walter. MIKHAIL GORBACHEV: A LEADER FOR SOVIET CHANGE. (People of Distinction Series) 152 p. $11.95. Childrens, 1989. (ISBN 0-516-03265-8) Grades 6-9

Excellent history of the charismatic leader of "glasnost" and "perestroika" whose "charm offensive" over the past five years has succeeded in confusing American hardliners and hawks while delighting others, especially Europeans; packs a lot of Russian history, Communist milestones, and shrewd observations and conclusions into a deceptively simple looking format; frankly admits to reporting gaps in Gorbachev's personal life, especially his youth, but compensates ably with much well-documented analysis of his public years, including quotations from his college roommate and from Russian poets and philosophers known for candor; an impressively "un-textbookish" but thorough, and thoroughly researched, bio-history for all ages unfamiliar with the astonishing policy changes personified by this Soviet chief of state; written before Berlin Wall crumbled; black-and-white photographs accompany the text; also includes a time line, endnotes, and an index

Patterson, Lillie. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. AND THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT. (Makers of America Series) 178 p. $16.95. Facts on File, 1989. (ISBN 0-8160-1605-4) (Available from Bemar) Grades 7-12

Biography that also chronicles the history of the Civil Rights Movement from its beginnings to King's death; begins with a discussion of the Montgomery bus boycott then goes on to describe King's childhood and education as well as the important influences on his young life; covers the most significant events of the Civil Rights Movement in detail (e.g., the integration of Central High in Little Rock, the sit-ins, the Freedom Ride, the demonstrations in Birmingham, the March on Washington, and the struggle to register black voters in Selma); highlights the contributions to the Movement of many others besides King; also discusses the problems within the movement in the years right before his death; contains occasional black-and-white photographs, the words and music for several freedom songs, a chronology of events, suggestions for further reading, and an index; a clearly written, balanced, and informative history of a life committed to change and justice; suitable for research and for supplementary reading

Peet, Bill. BILL PEET: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY. 190 p. $16.95. Houghton, 1989. (ISBN 0-395-50932-7) Grades 4-12

Oversized, lavishly illusrated, and delightfully spun account of his life by the well-known artist and children's storybook author, Bill Peet; in words and pen-and-ink drawings that will be familiar to all who ever saw Disney's Snow White or Sleeping Beauty, Peet tells the adventuresome story of his progress from Midwestern youth, to art school, to prizes, to Hollywood and a long tenure under the temperamental, brilliant Walt Disney; a real page-turner full of fascinating information on how an animated cartoon is developed from conception to finished product; almost an illustrated drama with Peet's exciting scenes in the Disney Studios spiced by dialogue between "the guys" (artists) and their demanding boss Disney; Peet's warm family feelings and his eventual break from Disney into his own independent career conclude the account; fine, fast reading for anyone who loves drawing--and a good story

Peifer, Charles, Jr. SOLDIER OF DESTINY: A BIOGRAPHY OF GEORGE PATTON. (People in Focus Series) 126 p. $11.95. Dillon, 1989. (ISBN 0-87518-395-6) Grades 6-9

Fast-paced, easy-reading account of the flamboyant WW II general whose "Old Blood and Guts" sobriquet summed him up accurately; follows Patton's life, defined by his overwhelming ambition and curious, even mystical, faith in his "destiny," to its 1945 finale in a freak automobile accident in occupied Germany; balances Patton's arrogance and ego against his fearlessness and self-driving; apparently dyslexic, Patton overcame terrible reading, spelling, and writing handicaps as well as the accompanying jeers of his classmates to rise to the military pantheon of stars; honest, compelling story that neither venerates nor denigrates a complex, flawed hero; includes black-and-white photographs, a chronology, a map, a bibliography and an index; good reading for motivated but learning-handicapped students (i.e., the dyslexic, others with disorders unrelated to IQ)

Rylant, Cynthia. BUT I'LL BE BACK AGAIN: AN ALBUM. 54 p. $12.99. Orchard Bks., 1989. (ISBN 0-531-08406-X) Grades 5-8

A collection of childhood and early adolescent memories to which most young people will respond; written in an informal but absolutely honest style, the book communicates Rylant's pain at her parents' separation when she was four years old--her mother left her with grandparents for four years while training to be a nurse, and she never saw her father again; she talks of the years spent in a small West Virginia town with her mother and her entry into adolescence with kissing, wearing bras, adoring the Beatles, losing her hero Robert Kennedy, and losing her father one final time when he died just as she was planning to see him again; tells what happened to some of the people she grew up with (and kissed) and provides a brief description of her adult life; acknowledges her early losses as the impetus for becoming a writer and offers every child the hope that along with loss and pain will come "a hero, and music, and at least one kiss he will never forget"; each chapter begins with lyrics from a song by the Beatles; a collection of black-and-white photographs appears at the end of the book; almost all young adolescents will see and feel the truth in Rylant's autobiographical recollections, and many will be touched by the recognition that loss is not so unusual but perhaps to be expected

Salerno-Sonnenberg, Nadja. NADJA: ON MY WAY. 84 p. $13.99. Crown, 1989. (ISBN 0-517-57391-1) Grades 7-12

Lively, appealing autobiography of a young musician's life and career as a violinist; covers her introduction to the violin in Rome, her family's move to the United States where she could receive better training, and her education at the Curtis Institute of Music; the author relates how her family's poor financial situation encouraged her imagination, creativity, and resourcefulness and offers readers ways to learn and enjoy music; describes her studies at Juilliard and the subsequent development of her career as a concert performer; describes the difficulties and sacrifices of a musician's life as well as the richness of feeling that the music returns to that life; contains a few black-and-white photographs; includes a discography and an index; there is much to be learned here about discipline and commitment but also about the passion and heart that give any endeavor its real meaning and joy; good reading for budding musicians and for anyone with an artist's soul, passion, and dedication to his or her chosen means of creative expression

Sender, Ruth Minsky. TO LIFE. 229 p. $14.95. Macmillan, 1988. (ISBN 0-02-781831-4) Grades 6-12

An excellent sequel to The Cage, this book relates the experiences of the author after her liberation from a Nazi concentration camp; her last-minute rescue by the Russians as she was on a death march into the woods is the beginning of what appear to be insurmountable difficulties and tragedies in the course of rebuilding her life; the seeming miracle of being reunited with her surviving brother and two sisters helps set the tone of the book, which although realistic offers the possibilities of life, hope, and joy that exist in the bonds of love and family; during the five-year wait in displaced persons camps to locate relatives in the United States and move here, she marries another survivor and has two children; the present tense narration makes the events recounted here immediate and gripping and heightens reader response to the horrors not only of the Holocaust but its aftermath; a superb book that is simple to read yet profoundly moving, the kind of story that helps young people explore what it means to be human and erase the superficial and cruel boundaries that human beings create between themselves

Siegel, Beatrice. CORY: CORAZON AQUINO AND THE PHILIPPINES. 118 p. $15.95. Lodestar Bks., 1988. (ISBN 0-525-67235-4) Grades 5-8

Correctly titled, this account is as much a history of the Philippines as it is biography of Corazon Aquino, detailing historical turning points in islands' subjugation and eventual freedom; summarizes history of Spanish conquest, treachery of U.S. takeover from Spain, invasion of Japan, and, more recently, the repressive Marcos regime and its capitulation to forces led by Cory Aquino; Cory's life, filtered through events in her homeland, yields throughout to a recounting of national history and a discussion of her husband's life and contributions; best used as a general introduction to the turbulent Philippines' recent history rather than as a biography of the remarkable President; excellent analysis of Cory Aquino's triumphant ouster of Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos; rather bleak format (fine print, dull black-and-white photos); bibliography; index; strong historical content on a continuing hot spot of the world scene

Siegel, Beatrice. GEORGE AND MARTHA WASHINGTON AT HOME IN NEW YORK. 74 p. $13.95. Four Winds, 1989. (ISBN 0-02-782721-6) Grades 6-9

Vivid, engrossingly detailed history of New York City at the time of George Washington's first presidential inauguration and the sixteen months of his occupancy of the newly independent country's first capital; as much a narrative of the city as of George and Martha, this re-creation of a bustling, multi-ethnic, vastly expanding, soon-to-be metropolis captures the sights, sounds, movement, and variety of the nascent NYC in lively, intimate glimpses and suitable quotations; what the first President wore to tea, how Martha conducted her receptions (always with Abigial Adams seated beside her), even the plum cake and candies served, are faithfully recorded; assesses candidly the powerful effects of many races, creeds, and religions on the rather provincial, slave-holding Washingtons; Washington's cultural indifference to the plight of women and child factory workers is seen as balanced by his insistence on a nonimperial Presidency and his devotion to religious tolerance and, finally, to emancipation of the slaves; poor black-and-white drawings are no assistance to the excellent text; reading lists; index; a resource for history as much as biography

Sullivan, George. MIKHAIL GORBACHEV. 132 p. $9.79. Messner, 1988. (ISBN 0-671-63263-9) Grades 6-9

Mr. Gorbachev's rise to international eminence is placed in the context of the modern political history of the U.S.S.R.; contains concise descriptions of the Communist party's structure and functioning; has little in the way of political or philosophical analysis of competing systems but strikes a tone of objective and largely uncritical comment and recitation of events; does not give in-depth insights into the personality or psychology of Mr. Gorbachev but is a good primer for the young student of the social sciences, specifically world history or political science, that involve a study of recent political history and development; care should be taken to assure that the student is aware of the substantial developments that have occurred since the book's publication; contains an adequate index and bibliography, a helpful pronunciation guide of Russian names, and a concise chronology of recent historical events in the U.S.S.R.

Taylor, Judy, et al. BEATRIX POTTER 1866-1943: THE ARTIST AND HER WORLD. 223 p. $35 (ISBN 0-7232-3521-X). $19.95 paper (ISBN 0-7232-3561-9). Warne, 1988. Grades 9-12; teacher use

Recounts the life of Beatrix Potter from the time of her birth in 1866 to her death in 1943; portrays Beatrix as a somewhat reserved person influenced greatly by her family (especially in her early life) but a person with special interests who occupied her time and eventually became wealthy; relates her love of reading and drawing and her progression from drawing her pet animals to her art work of fungi, insects, and other creations of nature; discusses Potter's efforts to get her first books (The Tale of Peter Rabbit and Mrs. McGregor's Garden) published, her affiliation with the Fredrick Warne Publishers, and the Warne family (Norman Warne was her first love); discusses Potter's married life to William Heelis and their common interest in raising sheep; also relates her acquisition of substantial tracts of land, all of which she sold or willed to the National Trust; profusely illustrated with Potter's paintings of all her book characters

and some paintings unpublished before, all making the book a pleasure to browse; adding interest are the black-and-white photographs of Potter's family, friends, places she lived, and her estates as they appear today; appropriate for all libraries and useful as a reference for primary grade teachers when they discuss Potter's life

Thayer, Bonita E. EMILY DICKINSON. (Impact Biography Series) 144 p. $12.90. Watts, 1989. (ISBN 0-531-10658-6) Grades 5-8

A biography that tells almost as much about the daily life of middle-class women of the time as it does about its subject; provides some background on Dickinson's family, including the grandfather who helped found Amherst College; describes Dickinson's education at Mount Holyoke Seminary and the conflict between conventional religious thought and practice and her own ideas that first manifested itself openly at Mount Holyoke but lasted a lifetime; discusses not only the chores and obligations of the women in the family but also the general social life of the family and community; gives only a few examples of Dickinson's poetry and explains the history of its publication; contains a few black-and-white photographs and illustrations; much of the material in the recommended reading list would be beyond the abilities of students in the recommended grade levels to use effectively; includes an index; a useful introduction to the poet and her work that also provides material of historical interest

Ventura, Piero. GREAT COMPOSERS. 124 p. $20.95. Putnam, 1989. (ISBN 0-399-21746-0) Grades 5-12

Brief profiles of important composers; begins with discussions of primitive, Chinese, Indian, Egyptian, Greek, and Roman music before presenting (in chronological order) over fifty individual composers from Guido d'Arezzo to the Beatles, including Scarlatti, Vivaldi, Bach, Mozart, Paganini, Beethoven, Chopin, Brahms, Verdi, Bizet, Strauss, Debussy, Stravinsky, George Gershwin, Louis Armstrong, Benny Goodman, and Duke Ellington; also contains descriptions of the troubadours, the Renaissance, Italian opera, French opera, and operettas; six pages of black line drawings feature all kinds of musical instruments, both old and new; a section entitled "The Lives of the Great Composers" provides additional biographical information; also includes an index of names; outstanding color illustrations by Ventura and his sons show not only the composers themselves but also scenes that include cities, homes, famous opera houses, and settings for various musical productions; illustrations are detailed, eye-catching, and immensely good-humored; a fine addition to any media collection and particularly interesting for budding musicians and music buffs

Warner, Malcolm-Jamal, with Daniel Paisner. THEO AND ME: GROWING UP OKAY. 208 p. Dutton, 1988. (ISBN 0-525-24694-0) Grades 6-12

A book that combines autobiography with Warner's responses to the serious issues raised in letters he receives; portions of letters are interspersed throughout each chapter and provide a focal point for the chapter; Warner discusses how he started in the acting business and the pressure of auditioning for "The Cosby Show"; devotes one chapter to some humorous letters before tackling more serious matters such as friendship, family, race relations, dating and sexuality, AIDS, teenage pregnancy, birth control, depression and suicide, love and death, and

drug and alcohol abuse; does not offer counseling or advice as such but shows remarkable good sense on these topics presented in the tone of an understanding friend; also contains a chapter on where to go for help; includes a forward by Bill Cosby and an afterword by Dr. Alvin F. Poussaint; contains a number of black-and-white photographs; young people will respond to Warner's casual writing style, his understanding of their concerns and problems, and his direct manner; parents and teachers will appreciate his efforts to also understand the adult point of view; this honest, realistic book is a good resource for almost every teenager

Weidhorn, Manfred. ROBERT E. LEE. 149 p. $13.95. Atheneum, 1988. (ISBN 0-689-31340-3) Grades 6-12

Biographical facts of Lee's life, emphasizing Lee the military genius whose brilliant tactics astonished the enemy and prolonged the Civil War and the South's hopes for years; excellent analysis of General Lee which credits his strengths (imagination, daring, willingness to take the offensive over and over in face of "overwhelming numbers and resources," to quote his own famous General Order #9) and cites his weaknesses, namely an inability to order his own officers and a fatal reliance on their responding to "urging" hints and suggestions; battle strategies, key officers of both North and South, victories and defeats, countless anecdotes, all chronicled in compelling language and details that never condescend to the younger reader but invite intelligent, attentive reading; Matthew Brady photos, others, and portraits; useful index; further reading list; excellent documentation throughout (no relying on imagined dialogue or thoughts); succeeds admirably in humanizing Lee without eroding his remarkable virtues

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government troops, forts, and settlers in the West; cites efforts of the Indian leaders to improve conditions for their tribes (for instance, Tecumseh's political strategies and Sequoyah's development of a written language and work with government officials); describes the Indians' home and family life, their survival techniques and ability to overcome adversity, tribal customs and traditions, their respect for and ability to commune with nature, and their belief in a supreme entity; each volume contains an introduction that discusses the early settlement of the Americas by people who crossed the Bering Strait long before the discovery of the Western Hemisphere by sea-going explorers and cites the exploitation of the native Americans by the Europeans; each volume includes illustrated full-color bindings, a double-spread map of the United States indicating the location of all native tribes, black-and-white illustrations, and a list of readings; an interesting, quality series

THE AMERICAN DREAM: BUSINESS LEADERS OF THE 20TH CENTURY. each 112-128 p. each $11.98. Silver Burdett Pr., 1989. Grades 7-10

ANDREW CARNEGIE: STEEL TYCOON. (ISBN 0-382-09582-0)
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WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST: PRESS BARON. (ISBN 0-382-09585-5)

Clearly written, balanced biographies of people who achieved the American dream of worldly success and wealth; each one gives not only a portrait of the individual but a sense of and real information about the history of the period in which he or she lived; each book also explores parental influences; chronicles the change of Florence Nightingale Graham, farmer's daughter, into Elizabeth Arden, beauty magnate; explores her gift for business and her failures in human relationships; provides a history of the beauty business while covering Arden's life; describes Andrew Carnegie's Scottish origins, his family's emigration to the United States, and his uncanny ability to be in the right place at the right time as he moved from one job to another (from a cotton mill to a telegraph office to a railroad office to his own independent ventures in railroads, iron, and steel); also explores his extensive philanthropic activities; gives quite a bit of attention to J. Paul Getty's mother and father and chronicles the continuing failure of his personal life as his fortune grew and grew; discusses Samuel Goldwyn's beginnings as a Jewish immigrant to the United States, his work as a salesman, and his love of the theater; provides a fascinating history of motion pictures while showing how Goldwyn made the most of every new development and how his willingness to take risks paid off in his own financial success and his contributions to the art of filmmaking; relates William Randolph Hearst's pampered and mischief-filled childhood and his youthful determination to own a newspaper; shows the disparity between the issues Hearst thought important (e.g., breaking up trusts, creating a shorter working day, and in general being concerned for the underdog) and the way he lived his own life, including the methods he used to achieve success; balances the achievements he made with the enmity he aroused during his lifetime; the life of John D. Rockefeller also presents a sharp contrast between the man's private values and life and the manner in which he conducted his own business; shows the growth of a meticulous, conscientious businessman into a hated mogul who nevertheless left a family legacy of philanthropy that continues today; no attempt is made to glorify any of these people; instead, they are presented in

their full humanity; each book includes black-and-white photographs and illustrations, a bibliography, and an index; good resources for studying the history of business in the United States as well as the individuals; appropriate also as leisure reading for those interested in biographies and the controversial phenomenon known as the American dream

COLONIAL PROFILES SERIES. each 48 p. each $12.95. Enslow Pubns., 1990.
Grades 2-4
ANNE HUTCHINSON: FIGHTER FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM (ISBN 0-89490-229-6); KING PHILIP: INDIAN LEADER (ISBN 0-89490-231-8); PATRICK HENRY: "GIVE ME LIBERTY OR GIVE ME DEATH!" (ISBN 0-89490-232-6)

Series of biographies that look at important individuals of the American colonial period; each begins with a brief introduction, then explores the life and times of the individual and his or her historical significance; Patrick Henry covers his childhood, his lack of success in early adulthood, and his career as a lawmaker; Anne Hutchinson describes her childhood, the persecution of Puritans and Separatists in England, her family's emigration to America, her efforts on behalf of religious tolerance, and her eventual banishment from Massachusetts; King Philip tells the story of the Indian Metacomet and the history of the problems between King Philip (and other Indians) and the colonists; frequent black-and-white illustrations accompany the text; each includes a list of important dates, a glossary, and an index; useful supplements to the social studies curriculum; also appropriate for simple research

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF PRESIDENTS. each 100 p. each $11.95. Childrens, 1988, 1989.
Grades 4-7
ANDREW JOHNSON (ISBN 0-516-01363-7); BENJAMIN HARRISON (ISBN 0-516-01370-X); CHESTER A. ARTHUR (ISBN 0-516-01369-6); GEORGE BUSH (ISBN 0-516-01374-2); GERALD FORD (ISBN 0-516-01371-8); JAMES BUCHANAN (ISBN 0-516-01358-8); JAMES CARTER (ISBN 0-516-01372-6); RONALD REAGAN (ISBN 0-516-01373-4); RUTHERFORD B. HAYES (ISBN 0-516-01365-3); ULYSSES S. GRANT (ISBN 0-516-01364-5); WARREN G. HARDING (ISBN 0-516-01368-8); WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT (ISBN 0-516-01366-1); WOODROW WILSON (ISBN 0-516-01367-X)

Readable biographies that put the presidents' lives in a historical perspective; each begins with an important event in the person's adult life then backtracks to his birth for the beginning of a chronological narrative that ends with his death; focus more on public rather than private life but do include significant personal events; black-and-white photographs, illustrations, engravings, and political cartoons generously illustrate the texts; also contain an index and a chronology of American history with the years between a particular man's birth and death highlighted; these accounts are fairly well balanced although they tend to pass quickly over the negative and accent the positive; there are some errors (for instance, one of Jimmy Carter's sisters is identified as a "family friend" in a photo caption) and occasional statements that cannot be factually supported (e.g., "Her [Nancy Reagan's] national 'Just Say No' campaign helped steer thousands of youngsters away from the dangers of drugs and alcohol."); the preview copy of James Buchanan was missing pages 61-80; these biographies are not characterized by great depth, but they do provide substantial material for research and report writing

GREAT LIVES SERIES. each 258-278 p. each $22.95. Scribner, 1988. Grades 6-9
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT (ISBN 0-684-18521-0);
EXPLORATION (ISBN 0-684-18511-3); SPORTS (ISBN 0-684-18510-5)

Brief (generally six to ten pages) biographies of people who distinguished themselves in government service, land exploration, or sports; American Government discusses thirty-six men and women who made significant contributions in serving the American government; includes both well- and lesser-known figures (e.g., Thomas Jefferson, Daniel Webster, Justin Morrill, Theodore Roosevelt, Thurgood Marshall, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Margaret Chase Smith); entries are arranged alphabetically within each of four sections based on historical periods; contains a chronology of world and United States events from 1765 to 1974 and a short bibliography for each subject in the book; Exploration contains twenty-five entries arranged in alphabetical order (including such names as Balboa, Richard Byrd, Christopher Columbus, Meriwether Lewis, and Robert Peary), a list of important events (with explanatory notes and dates) in the history of land exploration, and bibliographical listings for each explorer discussed; the twenty-nine alphabetically arranged biographies in Sports represent a wide range of sports and include athletes such as Muhammad Ali, Ty Cobb, Nadia Comaneci, Babe Didrikson, Wayne Gretzky, Jean-Claude Killy, Billie Jean King, Jack Nicklaus, Jim Thorpe, and Johnny Unitas; each biography ends with suggestions for further reading; text is presented in a two-column format, and entry headings provide dates of birth and death as well as a brief identification of the subject; black-and-white photographs and illustrations accompany each entry, and each book contains an index; biographies present a good amount of information and attempt to show both the difficulties and the accomplishments of each subject as well as some sense of family history and influence; good resources for research and appropriate supplements in social studies and history

NOTABLE BLACK AMERICANS OF ACHIEVEMENT. each 110 p. each $16.95. Grolier Inc., 1988. (Available from D&B Dist.) Grades 6-12
DUKE ELLINGTON; FREDERICK DOUGLASS; JACKIE ROBINSON;
JAMES WELDON JOHNSON; LANGSTON HUGHES; MATTHEW HENSON;
NAT TURNER; SCOTT JOPLIN; SOJOURNER TRUTH

Series covering the lives of nine black Americans and focusing primarily on their achievements; based on fact, these fictionalized accounts also discuss the personal characteristics of these famous people (eight men and one woman) and relate special events in their lives; also note such matters as where they lived, what they did, their interests, their education, their occupations, and the hardships they suffered; reflect the times in which these people lived; three of the group, born near the first of the nineteenth century (Frederick Douglass, Nat Turner, and Sojourner Truth) were antislavery activists, and Truth was an advocate for women's rights; those excelling as writers (Langston Hughes and James Weldon Johnson) made significant contributions to the literary field and to the improvement of the status of blacks; Scott Joplin and Duke Ellington were musicians and composers; Matthew Henson, the only explorer in the group, traveled extensively with Peary and accompanied him on the famous expedition to the North Pole; Jackie Robinson, the youngest in the group and one of two born in the twentieth century, was a noted athlete and the first black to play in the major leagues; all volumes contain an essay entitled "On Achievement" by Coretta Scott King, a chronology, an index, captioned black-and-white illustrations, picture credits, and a bibliography; book about Joplin contains list of compositions and the Ellington volume a discography; interesting, readable series is a good choice for students in junior and senior high schools; good readers in upper middle grades can easily handle the text

PIONEERS IN CHANGE. each 108-137 p. each $11.98. Silver Burdett Pr., 1989.
Grades 5-8
ALBERT EINSTEIN (ISBN 0-382-09523-5); ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL (ISBN 0-382-09529-4); MARGARET MEAD (ISBN 0-382-09525-1); THOMAS ALVA EDISON (ISBN 0-382-09522-7)

A series of biographies of people whose discoveries significantly changed people's lives and/or knowledge of the world; Alexander Graham Bell traces the beginnings of Bell's interest in sound (both his father and grandfather taught speech, and Bell was a very good pianist with a good ear for pitch); explains his father's system of Visible Speech and how it influenced Bell's lifelong commitment to teaching the deaf to speak; chronicles the progression of his study of sound and his inventions and the many interests he pursued in later life; an afterword summarizes his accomplishments and the philosophy of life that enabled him to discover what others could not see; Thomas Alva Edison briefly describes his parents and his life as a young boy then explores his working life, beginning when Edison was twelve years old and hawking food and newspapers on the Grand Trunk Railway; his work as a telegrapher quickly led his curious nature into more and more experiments and his most famous inventions--the phonograph, the first practical electric light bulb, and the motion picture camera; follows Edison's two marriages, a lifetime of experimenting and inventing, and his contributions to the success of the United States in World War I; stresses throughout Edison's persistence and his ability to learn from his mistakes; Albert Einstein discusses Einstein's years as a difficult student (he had different interests from others and as an older student frequently knew more than his teachers and did not hesitate to say so); describes a man who though he loved his family could only be dedicated to his work and to his efforts on behalf of pacifism and peace; emphasizes even his eccentricities (such as not combing his hair or wearing socks) as part and parcel of a man who simply spent his energies only on what was most important to him and lived his life following his own interests and values; Margaret Mead describes the early family influences on Mead's lifelong attempts to understand human behavior, discusses her many field trips and the resultant findings, and also explores her personal relationships (especially with her three husbands and her daughter); shows Mead to be like the other subjects in this series--dedicated to her work, energetic, and always enthusiastic about the possibility of new discoveries; black-and-white photographs illustrate all of the texts, which are also accompanied by a list of important dates in the subject's life, a bibliography, and an index; difficult or unusual words are clearly defined in the text; well-written books that present their subjects in a positive yet objective manner, noting the human frailties as well as the unusual genius of each of these remarkable people; good resources for research and inspiring leisure reading, perhaps especially for those gifted children needing role models or encouragement to follow their own talents and inspirations

ROOKIE BIOGRAPHY SERIES. each 47 p. each $9.95. Childrens, 1989. Grades 1-2
ABRAHAM LINCOLN: PRESIDENT OF A DIVIDED COUNTRY (ISBN 0-516-04206-8); LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN: MUSICAL PIONEER (ISBN 0-516-04208-4); ROBERT E. LEE: LEADER IN WAR AND PEACE (ISBN 0-516-04209-2)

Simple-to-read biographies with large print that nevertheless manage to convey a good amount of information; Robert E. Lee explains the early influences on his life and his career as a soldier, especially during the Civil War; also talks about his life after the war; Ludwig Van Beethoven discusses his sad childhood with an abusive father, the many other griefs in his life, his deafness, and his death as an unhappy man; Abraham Lincoln covers his young life, his adulthood, his entry into politics, the hard years of the Civil War, and his assassination; plentiful color and black-and-white photographs and illustrations help bring the texts alive for young readers; each volume contains a list of important dates and an index; appealing books that effectively introduce youngsters to biography and provide appropriate supplements to social studies activities

STEP-UP BIOGRAPHIES. each 64-72 p. each $6.99. Random Sch. Div., 1989. Grades 2-4
MEET ABRAHAM LINCOLN (ISBN 0-394-91966-1)
MEET BENJAMIN FRANKLIN (ISBN 0-394-91961-0)
MEET CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS (ISBN 0-394-91963-7)
MEET GEORGE WASHINGTON (ISBN 0-394-91965-3)
MEET MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. (ISBN 0-394-91962-9)
MEET THOMAS JEFFERSON (ISBN 0-394-91964-5)

A series of simple to read yet informative biographies about important historical figures; all are of approximately the same number of pages and structured in a similar format; some attention is given each person's young life and development, but the major portion of each book is devoted to a description of the subject's adult life and accomplishments; all contain black-and-white illustrations (except the profile of Martin Luther King, Jr., which contains photographs); provide solid introductions to significant people and their contributions; fine for individual reading and good material for book reports

BOOK (FOR TEACHER USE)

Ramusi, Molapatene Collins, and Ruth S. Turner. SOWETO, MY LOVE. 262 p. $22.95. H. Holt & Co., 1989. (ISBN 0-8050-0263-4)

Very personal, poignant reminiscence of growing up black in South Africa by a native educated in Western schools and later in America who has returned to the region as an advocate lawyer for victims of apartheid; reads like a first-person novel, full of anecdotes and scenes of Ramusi's tribal childhood, the ritual circumcision and enforced separation from family ("tougher than Sparta") which reminded him of his heritage and expectations of manhood, his brutal introduction to white supermacy as servant and gofer humiliated by demands for foot washing and punishments for using employer's china; follows Ramusi's rescue through education and intervention of both whites and blacks who recognized his promise and aided him; almost a "Huck Finn of South Africa" account from a grown-up perspective; essentially a benevolent spirit, Ramusi nevertheless concludes violent overthrow may be only solution; warmhearted, passionate story meant to convert Western hearts and minds

BOOKS REVIEWED IN OTHER SOURCES

The books listed below have received favorable reviews in one or more of the following reviewing sources. Code letters for the reviewing sources are cited after the bibliographic entry for each title. The reviewing sources and their code letters are as follows:

BOOKLIST	BKL
BULLETIN OF THE CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S BOOKS	BCCB
HORN BOOK	HB
KIRKUS REVIEWS	KR
NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW	NYTBR
PUBLISHERS WEEKLY	PW
SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL	SLJ
VOICE OF YOUTH ADVOCATES	VOYA
WILSON LIBRARY BULLETIN	WLB

An asterisk after the code letters for the reviewing source indicates that the title was highly recommended in that particular reviewing source.

Aaseng, Nathan. JOSE CANSECO: BASEBALL'S 40-40 MAN. (The Achievers Series) 56 p. $8.95. Lerner Pubns., 1989. (ISBN 0-8225-0493-6) Grades 3-7. BCCB BKL SLJ

Adler, David A. JACKIE ROBINSON: HE WAS THE FIRST. (First Biography Series) 48 p. $12.95. Holiday, 1989. (ISBN 0-8234-0734-9) Grades 3-5. BCCB BKL PW SLJ

Adler, David A. A PICTURE BOOK OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN. unp. $13.95. Holiday, 1989. (ISBN 0-8234-0731-4) Grades K-3. BCCB BKL KR PW SLJ

Adler, David A. A PICTURE BOOK OF GEORGE WASHINGTON. unp. $13.95. Holiday, 1989. (ISBN 0-8234-0732-2) Grades K-3. BCCB BKL KR NYTBR PW SLJ

Adler, David A. A PICTURE BOOK OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. unp. $13.95. Holiday, 1989. (ISBN 0-8234-0770-5) Grades K-3. BKL SLJ

Bentley, Judith. ARCHBISHOP TUTU OF SOUTH AFRICA. 96 p. $13.95. Enslow Pubs., 1988. (ISBN 0-89490-180-X) Grades 5-10. BCCB BKL KR SLJ

Brown, Marion Marsh. SACAGAWEA: INDIAN INTERPRETER TO LEWIS AND CLARK. 119 p. $11.95. Childrens, 1988. (ISBN 0-516-03262-3) Grades 5-9. BKL SLJ

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Deegan, Paul J. MICHAEL JORDAN: BASKETBALL'S SOARING STAR. 55 p. $7.95. Lerner Pubns., 1988. (ISBN 0-8225-0492-8) Grades 3-6. BKL

Driemen, J.E. ATOMIC DAWN: A BIOGRAPHY OF ROBERT OPPENHEIMER. 160 p. $11.95. Dillon, 1989. (ISBN 0-87518-397-2) Grades 6-9. BCCB BKL SLJ

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Humphrey, Kathryn Long. SATCHEL PAIGE. 110 p. $11.90. Watts, 1988. (ISBN 0-531-10513-X) Grades 5-9. BCCB BKL KR SLJ VOYA

Kent, Zachary. THE STORY OF GERONIMO. 31 p. $9.95. Childrens, 1989. (ISBN 0-516-04743-4) Grades 3-5. BKL

Lawlor, Laurie. DANIEL BOONE. 160 p. $10.50. Whitman, 1988. (ISBN 0-8075-1462-4) Grades 6-10. BKL* KR SLJ

Levite, Christine, and Julie Moline. PRINCESSES. 208 p. $12.90. Watts, 1989. (ISBN 0-531-10772-8) Grades 5-9. BCCB BKL SLJ

Micklos, John, Jr. LEONARD NIMOY: A STAR'S TREK. 62 p. $9.95. Dillon, 1988. (ISBN 0-87518-376-X) Grades 3-6. BKL SLJ

Mitchell, Barbara. BETWEEN TWO WORLDS: A STORY ABOUT PEARL BUCK. 64 p. $9.95. Carolrhoda Bks., 1988. (ISBN 0-87614-332-X) Grades 3-6. BKL KR SLJ

Mitchell, Barbara. "GOOD MORNING, MR. PRESIDENT": A STORY ABOUT CARL SANDBURG. 56 p. $9.95. Carolrhoda Bks., 1988. (ISBN 0-87614-329-X) Grades 3-6. BKL KR SLJ

Reit, Seymour. BEHIND THE REBEL LINES: THE INCREDIBLE STORY OF EMMA EDMONDS, CIVIL WAR SPY. 102 p. $12.95. Harcourt, 1988. (ISBN 0-15-200416-5) Grades 5-9. BCCB BKL KR SLJ

Scott, John Anthony, and Robert Alan Scott. JOHN BROWN OF HARPER'S FERRY. (Makers of Ameria Series) 184 p. $16.95. Facts on File, 1988. (ISBN 0-8160-1347-0) (Available from Bemar) Grades 8-12. BKL KR SLJ

Spies, Karen. RAFFI: THE CHILDREN'S VOICE. 63 p. $9.95. Dillon, 1989. (ISBN 0-87518-398-0) Grades 2-4. BKL SLJ

Sufrin, Mark. PAYTON. 151 p. $12.95. Scribner, 1988. (ISBN 0-684-18940-2) Grades 6-10. BCCB BKL KR SLJ VOYA

Tedards, Anne. MARIAN ANDERSON. 110 p. $16.95. Grolier Inc., 1988. (ISBN 0-7172-8556-1) Grades 6-10. BKL SLJ

Walker, Paul Robert. PRIDE OF PUERTO RICO: THE LIFE OF ROBERTO CLEMENTE. 136 p. $11.95. Harcourt, 1988. (ISBN 0-15-200562-5) Grades 4-8. BKL HB SLJ WLB

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